

# Weekly National Intelligence.

WASHINGTON: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1864.

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By GALE & SEATON.

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## THE DAY OF DECISION.

The Presidential canvass which this day comes to an end has been wholly unprecedented in the history of the country, whether regarded in its substantial issues or in its collateral aspects. In the heart of a great civil revolution, stirring society to its lowest depths, the people have been called to consider the elements that make up the political situation, and to decide what direction shall be impressed on the mighty current of the events passing before their eyes.

Where so many influences have combined to disturb the judgments of men it would be idle to look for serenity of opinions among all the adherents of any party, since to the natural diversities of sentiment and conduct which spring from differences of temperament, character, and education, have been added at this juncture the jealousies and suspicions engendered by the nature of the great struggle in which the country is engaged. And hence it is that in the jarring conflicts of opinion we have seen men taking sides with the Administration or against it in the pending electoral contest without any regard to former political discriminations. The fountains of the great deep have been broken up, and the surging waters have overflowed all the ancient demarcations which once indicated the boundaries of different political organizations. Thus it is that we have seen coalitions in support of the Administration composed of men representing all shades of former political opinion, and embracing all possible varieties of contemporary creeds, from William Lloyd Garrison to Edward Everett, from John C. Fremont to Montgomery Blair, from men like Messrs. Wade and Davis to men like Messrs. Seward and Bates. With views as wide apart as the poles, all these diversities have found a motive for combining in the support of the same candidates—the only thing had in common among them. In like manner, among the opponents of the Administration we have seen represented an almost equal variety of ancient political faiths. Men who but recently were among the most zealous of Republicans have united with Democrats and Whigs in supporting the candidacy of Gen. McClellan.

In such a chaos of opinions it must needs be that many are held in combination with each of the two great bodies of citizens who have been thrown together in the support respectively of Mr. Lincoln and General McClellan without assuming any responsibility whatever for the views of their political associates. When the New York Times, edited by the chief manager of the Presidential canvass on the part of the Republicans, does not scruple to set with such zealous and efficient allies as Messrs. Wade and Davis, while denouncing them as men who "lead the van in the blind race of radicalism and barbarism," we may be sure that not only all political consistency, but even all sense of political identity has been submerged by the drift of events. And within the last few days we have seen a movement, headed by no respectable gentleman as Major Gen. Dix, designed to conciliate support for the Administration on the basis of the Democratic party pure and simple—it being represented by this branch of the President's supporters that fidelity to the ancient Democratic creed must bring the loyal adherents of that creed into confederation with the modern Republicans under the emergent issues of the hour. In a word, they hold that the Republican party of to-day is the natural home of the Democrats who would preserve uncorrupted the traditions of that party which has ruled the country under Jackson, Van Buren, Polk, Pierce, and Buchanan. New Republican is only Old Democrat "writ large."

It is known to our readers that since the dissolution of the Whig party we have not wholly acted with either the Republican or Democratic organizations. To the Democratic party, while it was in power, we were almost habitually opposed, for though we waged against it no systematic opposition, we were rarely able to concur with its principles or its administrative measures. We thought at the time, as we still think, that under the lead of Southern statesmen and agitators it steadily tended to develop antagonisms which threatened the equilibrium of our political system, and hence we resisted all those schemes of sectional aggrandizement which were initiated under its auspices, and which, though urged in the name of national interests, seemed to us fraught with damage to the common weal.

But, while thus opposing the general policy of the ancient Democratic party, we were just as little able to concur with the spirit and tendencies of the Republican party, which being, in its origin and constitution, a reaction against the extremes of the Democracy, partook of the dangers attaching to all political reactions—pushing its peculiar views of public policy to lengths out of all proportion with the other great interests of the nation. And so it came to pass that "the North" and "the South" were at last arrayed against each other under color of diverse political organizations. We stood aloof from both, endeavoring as far as possible to moderate against the violence of both without identifying ourselves with either.

We were not, therefore, among the supporters of Mr. Lincoln at the last election, which develop-

ed a quadrangular contest, with candidates represented respectively by Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Brooklyn, Mr. Douglas, and Mr. Bell. The exactions of the Southern wing of the Democracy had resulted in a secession of that ancient party, and the dissension tendencies of that wing were now fully disclosed. As it is the nature of antagonisms in politics mutually to support and feed each other, the Republican party thrived on the dissensions of its most formidable rival. As has been truly said by Mr. Greeley, "the engineers of the rebellion desired and labored for the Republican triumph of 1860." And he is equally true to history when he adds:

"It was to this end that they forced through the Senate of that year the Jeff. Davis platform, whereby Mr. Douglas and his friends were virtually read out of the Democratic party. It was to this end that they deliberately and determinedly completed the overthrow of that party, by breaking from the Charleston Convention and nominating Breckinridge and Lane against Douglas and Johnson. All through the campaign Mr. Douglas was treated as the enemy of the Union, and treated the voters as his virtual and powerful allies. And when, through their aid, we had elected Lincoln and Hamilton, our triumph was no where more generally or openly exulted over than in Charleston, the fountain and focus of the rebellion."

It was in view of such a co-operation between these two sectional antagonisms that, as lovers of the Union, we could never see our way clear to join with either in the bonds of political fellowship. But when Mr. Lincoln was constitutionally elected to the Presidency we strove to the best of our ability to resist the revolutionary projects of the Southern politicians, and sought, within the sphere of our influence as public journalists, to conciliate for him the confidences of the Southern people. In so doing, we had to endure many reproaches, not only from some who to-day are in arms against the Government, but from others who are now blatant in denouncing as "traitors" all who do not prove their loyalty by an unquestioning support of the present Administration.

On Mr. Lincoln's accession to power, and after the advent of civil war, we gave to his Administration the fullest support it was in our power to give. The hearts of the loyal people of the whole nation were fused into one glowing mass of patriotism by the flames of the conflict. The political doors of more than a quarter of a century were purged away as in an instant by that fiery ordeal. Old issues passed away. Wire-drawn discriminations about banks, tariffs, internal improvements, &c. disappeared. The simple question was, "who will support the Government against armed secession?" The simple object of the war, at the same time, was avowed to be the restoration of the Union under the Constitution.

To the support of the Government, as established by the Constitution, we are irrevocably pledged, and in supporting the Government, as we conceive, we have given to the present Administration all the support we could honestly give it in consistency with our paramount allegiance to the Constitution and the laws. When its measures have seemed to us constitutional and expedient we have given them our earnest co-operation. When they seemed otherwise, we have never failed to indicate our opinion, as duty and candor required at our hands. And just in proportion as the Administration has, in our eyes, strayed from the simple paramount obligation imposed upon it, to conduct the war for the Union under the Constitution, have been the frequency and the earnestness of our dissent from its policy and measures, until in the end, when called to consider the rival claims of Mr. Lincoln and Gen. McClellan in the present canvass, it was not difficult to decide which of them, in consistency with our known opinions, was entitled to receive our support, if we took any side in the struggle. And while we aim to be independent at all times, the thought of being neutral in an emergency which more than ever called for the honest activity of every good citizen seemed to us little short of actual treason to the Republic. For such political indifference we have no toleration in a time like the present.

The support of the candidacy of Gen. McClellan followed so naturally and necessarily from the convictions of political duty inculcated in these columns since the outbreak of the war, that we have never paused in the intervals of the canvass to offer any explanations, much less any defence of our course. We had simply to ask which of the two candidates frankly accepts the conditions of our political problem as they were stated by Mr. Lincoln himself at a time when, in common with the great mass of the nation, we were giving him our confidence and support; for it was on the 4th of July, 1861, that President Lincoln, in his message to Congress, wrote as follows:

"Least there be some uneasiness in the minds of candid men as to what is to be the course of the Government towards the Southern States after the rebellion shall have been suppressed, the Executive deems it proper to say, it will be his purpose, then, as ever, to be guided by the Constitution and the laws; and that he probably will have no different understanding of the powers and duties of the Federal Government relatively to the rights of the States and the people, under the Constitution, than that expressed in the inaugural address."

"He desires to preserve the Government, that it may be administered for all, as it was administered by the men who made it. Loyal citizens everywhere have the right to claim this of their Government, and the Government has no right to withhold or neglect it. It is not perceived that, in giving it, there is any coercion, any conquest, or any subjugation, in any just sense of those terms."

That was then the platform of President Lincoln, as it was ours. To-day it is the platform of Gen. McClellan, as it still is ours. Standing on this platform we were willing to co-operate with Republicans in 1861. Standing on this platform we have been willing to co-operate with Democrats in 1864. What we were not willing to do in 1861 and what we are not willing to do in 1864 is to desert this platform of principles for the sake of following the lead of any party in schemes which we believe to be subversive of the Constitution and fatal to the Union. We can yield much in the way of administrative measures, but we cannot yield the fundamental principles of our political policy as we understand them. We cannot turn revolutionists in the set of suppressing secession, and hence it is that, in the present election, we have

preferred to act with that party which, without regard to antecedents, seemed to us the most conservative of the vital principles of the Government, as involved in our present complication. It has not been with us a question which of the parties in the past was the wisest and the best, but which to-day is best fitted to check the tendencies which have received too much development and impulse from the drift of events during the last four years. We believe that our political "machine" is in danger from the velocity of its movement in the new direction impressed on it by the predominant wing of the Republican party. We cheerfully recognize the fact that the Republican party numbers among its adherents many with whom we could cordially sympathize if their opinions gave color and complexion to the Administration, but we have not much confidence that they will be able to maintain their position in that party, and at the same time maintain the consistency and integrity of their opinions. The drift of the last two years has seemed to us pregnant with warning on this point. If we have fallen out of the current it is because we were not willing to swim with it.

At the same time we know there is a wing of the Democratic party no less impracticable and exacting in its demands than the so-called "radical wing" of the Republicans. Not being identified with the one party any more than the other, we suppose ourselves free to discuss the dangerous tendencies of each, and if Mr. Lincoln, during his Administration, had manifested as much steadfastness against what he calls "the Greeley faction" as Gen. McClellan has shown in regard to "the Vallandigham faction," we might have seen our way clear to support his pretensions to a reelection, notwithstanding our old Whig addition to "the one term principle." As it was, in common with the great mass of our political associates, we have felt it our duty to labor for the election of that candidate who promised to look with a single eye to the restoration of the Union under the Constitution, and who seemed least likely to be jostled from his purpose by extraneous influences.

It may be that we have erred in the course we have taken. We do not pretend to be infallible in matters as to which we suppose ourselves to see so much fallibility in many others. It is certain that no path of duty has ever seemed clearer to our eyes, with such lights as we were able to bring to a discovery of the way in which we should walk. Whatever may be the award of this day's arbitrament at the ballot-box, whether it shall appear that we have acted with the many or the few, we shall have the consciousness that we consulted honestly, if not wisely, for the welfare of the country. We fully believe that the part we have chosen "will stand the test of human scrutiny and of time." And whatever may be the result of the election, we have the same theory of civil obligation to propound for our own guidance and for the guidance of our countrymen. So long as Gen. McClellan and Mr. Lincoln were before the people as candidates for the Presidency, it became the duty as it was the right of all to canvass with freedom, if only with candor, their respective claims to public confidence. But when the contest has been decided let there be, as far as possible, an end of strife and debate.

If the choice of the people shall fall on Gen. McClellan, it will be the duty of his opponents, equally with his supporters, to give to him, as President, the support he is entitled to claim from all good citizens as the constitutional head of the nation. And between Mr. Lincoln, the candidate of his party, and Mr. Lincoln, the President of the United States, there is a wide difference. In the former character he can ask to be supported only by those who concur with him in his opinions and policy. In the latter character he may rightly ask to be upheld in the discharge of his constitutional functions by citizens of all parties alike. And when we call to mind the discordant elements which enter into the composition of both the parties respectively supporting the candidacies of Gen. McClellan and Mr. Lincoln, it must be apparent to all that the success of either will impose upon patriotic citizens, without distinction of party, the duty of avoiding a factious opposition to the one or the other, since, in any event, the intrinsic difficulties of the position of either must be greatly enhanced by the divergent views of the supporters of each, whether Gen. McClellan or Mr. Lincoln shall be installed in the Presidential chair for the next four years. Those who, on the one hand or on the other, apprehend the most disastrous consequences from the elevation of Gen. McClellan or of Mr. Lincoln to power, should not despair of the Republic, but are bound by the very sincerity of their apprehensions to labor, within the sphere of their influence, for the correction of tendencies to evil—giving to the Administration, whoever may be the incumbent of the Presidential office, all the support that can be given in consistency with a sense of duty to the Constitution and the public welfare. And it will equally be the duty of the President elect to remember that, in according to the discharge of his official duties, he ceases to be the exponent of a mere party, and is called by the moral necessities of his position to respect as much the rights of the minority of his fellow-citizens as the will of the majority.

Maj. Gen. Marimaduke, Brig. Gen. Cabell, and four rebel colonels, captured by General Pleasant at the battle of Osage, left St. Louis on Thursday for Johnson's Island.

**THE ST. ALBAN'S ROBBERS.**  
The proceedings at Montreal on Friday, in the case of the St. Alban's robbers, are stated to have been very satisfactory. Several of the robbers were identified, also some of the money stolen. Upon consultation with the United States authorities, it was determined to proceed with one case in order to save time; and by the decision of that case, if in favor of the United States, the whole will be remanded under the extradition treaty. If the decision is adverse to the United States, they have reserved the right to take up any of the other cases.

## THREE REBEL PRIVATEERS.

The rebels have now three steamers committing depredations on the coast. The Chickamauga, which ran out from Wilmington on the night of the 27th of October, has since destroyed three vessels. Their captain and crew arrived at New York on Friday on board the barque Abraham Lincoln, which was also captured and bonded for \$18,000. The Chickamauga is represented to be a screw steamer, carrying three guns and a crew of one hundred and fifty men.

The steamer Chesapeake, on her way to New York on Friday from Portland, was boarded by the United States cutter Kewanee, and her captain informed that the Tallahassee was on the coast and had destroyed several vessels. A British schooner also arrived at New York on Friday evening with twenty-eight persons belonging to three vessels that had been captured and destroyed by the rebel steamer Olancho. One of the vessels destroyed was the schooner A. J. Bird, Capt. French, of and from Rockland, Washington, (D. C.) with a cargo of lime, laths, and potatoes. The crew were ordered on board the steamer, and the schooner scuttled. The Olancho is an iron screw steamer of eleven hundred tons burden, rigged with two smokestacks, two screws, and very fast, and ran out from Wilmington on the 30th ultimo.

The following letter has been received by the Government in reference to the new piratical steamer to be commanded by Capt. Semmes:

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
Liverpool Oct. 18, 1864.  
SIR: The English screw steamer Sea King, built at Glasgow in 1863, cleared for Bombay and sailed from London on the 8th inst., with a large quantity of coal, fifty tons of metal, and a crew of forty-seven men, under the command of Capt. Cobbett. Mr. Cio, United States Consul Agent at Dover, says he has reliable information that Capt. Semmes is to have this vessel. From what is known at this office about the Sea King, independent of the information of Mr. Cio, I have not the least doubt that it is the vessel the steamer Lauro is to meet, and that Capt. Semmes, with the officers, men, and guns taken out in the Lauro, will be transferred to her. Their place of meeting is not known to me.

The Sea King is a very fast, strongly built and fine looking screw steamer, built of wood, with iron frame, and coppered, about one thousand tons burden, and two hundred and twenty-two feet long, one funnel, three light masts, ship rigged with wire rigging, heavily sparred, machinery shaft the mainmast. No doubt her name will be changed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
THOMAS H. DUDLEY, Consul.

## EXCITEMENT IN TRENTON.

*Collision Between a Railroad Train and a McClellan Procession—The Train Attacked.*

The Washington through mail train, which started from Jersey City at half past 7 o'clock on Friday night, encountered a McClellan procession on the track of the road in Trenton, and a serious collision occurred. The speed of the train had slackened in order to run over the bridge at the ordinary slow rate, and when it became evident that a collision must occur, an effort was made to stop the engine, but it struck the hind wheels of the wagon, carrying the end of the vehicle about twenty feet, and upsetting the boat and the ladies. Fortunately none of them were killed, and none, it is said, were seriously injured. The excitement at the time was fearful. Several hundred men gathered round the engine, which had stopped. The engineer and fireman fled for their lives, and escaped in the confusion. The mob became infuriated and undertook to destroy the locomotive. They threw stones at the engine, breaking the reflector and injuring it in other respects. They crowded themselves on it and on the cars, and managed to run the train back to the depot. Afterwards another engine was procured, and its engineer, who was known to be a rebel, was ordered to take the train on its way, but the mob threatened him, and he was not permitted to proceed. Fearing that the track would be destroyed, or the bridge be burned, the attempt to go forward was abandoned. Subsequently, when the train was ordered to start, the mob threatened the engine, and the crew of the train were ordered to leave the train on its way, but the mob threatened him, and he was not permitted to proceed. Fearing that the track would be destroyed, or the bridge be burned, the attempt to go forward was abandoned. Subsequently, when the train was ordered to start, the mob threatened the engine, and the crew of the train were ordered to leave the train on its way, but the mob threatened him, and he was not permitted to proceed. 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